

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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DODE-00 /064 W
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R 240703Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8181
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
DOE GERMANTOWN MD
DOE WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 09320

F.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, TGEN, ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: INCREASED US-JAPAN S&T COOPERATION

REF: STATE 128490

DEPT. PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR FRANK PRESS AND HENRY OWEN

SEOUL FOR HUBERMAN

1. ON ARRIVAL IN TOKYO MAY 23 FROM PEKING, BENJAMIN HUBERMAN, OSTP/NSC, CALLED ON MOFA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S INITIATIVE ON INCREASING S&T COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND JAPAN AND RESPONSES TO INITIATIVE BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND SCIENCE ADVISOR FRANK PRESS. INFORMAL MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY DEPDIRGEN KITAMURA, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU; DEPDIRGEN YATABE, UN BUREAU; DEPDIRGEN KUNIHIRO, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU; DIRECTOR WATANABE, FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU; AND DIRECTOR OHTA, SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, UN BUREAU. HUBERMAN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY SCICOUNS.

2. WATANABE REVIEWED HISTORY OF FUKUDA INITIATIVE FROM INCEPTION
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TO PRIMIN'S RETURN FROM WASHINGTON, STATING THAT FUKUDA BELIEVES THAT HIS PROPOSAL FOR INCREASED S&T COOPERATION WAS ONE OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WASHINGTON VISIT IN CONSIDERATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITIVE AND FAVORABLE REACTION TO PROPOSAL.

3. WATANABE ALSO REPORTED THAT MOFA HAS HELD ORGANIZING MEETINGS WITH

OTHER GOJ MINISTRIES OR AGENCIES INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING FUKUDA PROPOSAL AND THEY ARE TO PREPARE DESCRIPTIONS OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL JOINT PROJECTS IN FIELDS OF FUSION AND SOLAR ENERGY (INCLUDING PHOTOSYNTHESIS). RESPONSES ARE DUE IN TWO WEEKS, AFTER WHICH MOFA WILL MAKE ITS OWN ASSESSMENT AND WILL ORGANIZE MATERIAL INTO INFORMAL DOCUMENT WHICH CAN BE PRESENTED TO USG. PRINCIPAL CRITERION TO BE USED

IS THAT PROJECTS MEET FUKUDA'S THEME OF A JOINT ENDEAVOR LOOKING TOWARD BENEFITS IN THE 21ST CENTURY. ESTIMATES WILL BE MADE OF THE SIZE OF JOINT FUND REQUIRED. PRIMIN HAS STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF INITIATIVE AND MOFA IS REQUIRED TO KEEP HIM CURRENTLY INFORMED OF PROGRESS.

4. HUBERMAN RESPONDED BY OUTLINING CHRONOLOGY ON US SIDE, NOTING THAT PRESIDENT HAD REPLIED POSITIVELY TO FUKUDA PROPOSAL AND IN FACT HAD underscored IMPORTANCE OF EXPANDING FIELDS OF US-JAPANESE COOPERATION TO ALL AREAS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. HUBERMAN EXPLAINED RATIONALE OF US INTEREST IN HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS AND CONTINENTAL MARGIN DRILLING AS SUBJECTS FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH JAPAN. HE ALSO ANALYZED ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TRYING TO ESTABLISH JOINT FUND TO FINANCE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS, ASKING THAT JAPANESE KEEP THEIR MINDS OPEN TOWARD OTHER FINANCING ALTERNATIVES--SUCH AS DIRECT FUNDING

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OF INDIVIDUAL JOINT PROJECTS--IN EVENT THAT EITHER GOVERNMENT SHOULD RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES WITH FUND CONCEPT. HE EXPLAINED THAT DR. PRESS HAD BEEN CHARGED BY PRESIDENT TO TAKE LEAD IN INITIATION DIALOGUE WITH GOJ, AFTER WHICH USG TECHNICAL AGENCIES (DOE AND NSF) WOULD TAKE OVER SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH OVERSIGHT FROM STATE DEPT. (OES).

5. IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH FOLLOWED, GOJ SIDE EMPHASIZED FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE MATCHING GOJ NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROVIDING FUNDS FOR USE IN EXISTING US FACILITIES.
- B. PROJECTS SELECTED SHOULD BE MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS AND OF TYPE THAT REQUIRES LONG DEVELOPMENT PERIOD.
- C. PROJECTS SHOULD BE IN TECHNICAL AREAS WHERE COMPETENCE OF BOTH COUNTRIES IS ROUGHLY EQUAL.
- D. EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO LIMIT NUMBER OF JOINT PROJECTS,

AVOIDING APPEARANCE OF A LONG SHOPPING LIST.

E. PRIMIN DID NOT MAKE S&T PROPOSAL WITH VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE DEVICE TO PARTIALLY OFFSET CURRENT ACCOUNT IMBALANCE.

6. HUBERMAN REACTED TO ABOVE POINTS BY REPEATEDLY STRESSING NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN JAPANESE THINKING UNTIL WHOLE CONCEPT COULD BE EXPLORED FURTHER. HE POINTED OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT USE OF A DEDICATED RESEARCH

FACILITY IN EITHER COUNTRY MIGHT BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO JOINT
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RESEARCH THAN SIMPLE MATCHING OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. HE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE INDICATED THAT USG IS PREPARED TO GO BEYOND PRIMIN'S PROPOSAL SO AS TO MAKE S&T COOPERATION EVEN MORE SUBSTANTIAL.

HE EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT'S FAVORABLE RESPONSE HAD NOT BEEN TIED TO TRYING TO CORRECT CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT, ALTHOUGH SOME WOULD SEE ADVANTAGES IN THIS RESPECT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT GOJ THINK IN TERMS OF ENHANCING JAPAN'S POSITION IN BASIC RESEARCH THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ADVANCED FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN U.S. SUCH AS HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS.

7. SOME DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON RELATIONSHIP OF EXPANDED BILATERAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY R&D TO USG PROPOSAL FOR A MULTILATERAL ENERGY

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DEPT. PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR FRANK PRESS AND HENRY OWEN

SEOUL FOR HUBERMAN

R&D FUND TO BE CONSIDERED AT BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT. JAPANESE DID NOT SEE IMMINENT LINKAGE, BUT HUBERMAN REMINDED THEM THAT PRIMIN HIMSELF HAD SUGGESTED ULTIMATE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF BILATERAL R&D COOPERATION IN HIS NEW YORK SPEECH. IT WAS AGREED THAT USG AND GOJ WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS IN BONN IN HIS REGARD AND THAT TWO SIDES SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH COMMON POSITION.

8. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRED BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, AND THAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE DELIVERY OF GOJ OUTLINE OF SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN FUSION AND SOLAR ENERGY TO DR. PRESS BY AMB. TOGO WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. AT THE SAME TIME, USG WOULD BE PREPARING ITS SPECIFIC THOUGHTS ON POTENTIAL COOPERATION IN HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS, CONTINENTAL MARGIN DRILLING PROJECTS AND OTHER AREAS. BOTH SIDES ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DEMONSTRATE TO HEADS OF STATE THAT MOMENTUM WAS BEING MAINTAINED AND THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO ESTABLISH A COORDINATING GROUP AT AN EARLY TIME FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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9. COMMENT: TWO-HOUR MEETING WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL IN CLARIFYING VIEWS

OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. MELTING WAS CONDUCTED IN FRANK AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, WITH OBVIOUS DEDICATION BY THE PARTIES TO REACHING AGREEMENT ON A MAJOR NEW VENTURE IN US-JAPAN S&T RELATIONS.

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